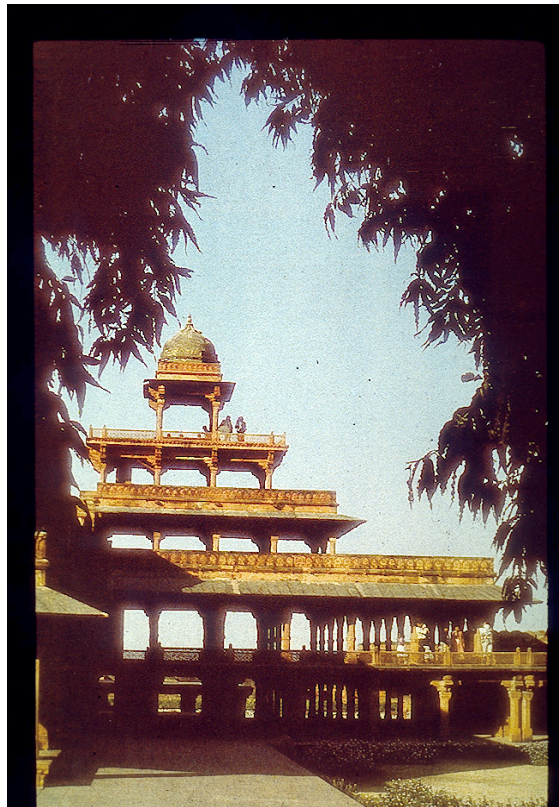


## India

Here first are a few pictures from India. The emphasis is upon the many styles of architecture.

When the Mughals entered India they brought with them a whole new style of architecture. Akbar, the greatest of the Mughal Emperors created for his new capitol Fatipursikri. Here is one example of the architectural style used. After a few years, Akbar abandoned his new capitol and moved back to his old one.





The Taj Mahal in Agra. India

The Taj is one of the finest examples of the Mughal contribution to Indian architecture. It was built by Shah Jahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal whose death he mourned greatly.



The great gate at Sanchi ,India. An ancient stupa is behind it.

The very earliest extant buildings in India are stupas created by the Buddhists to inter the remains of the Buddha and his followers and other relics.



### The Caves of Ajanta

These twenty-nine caves contain a rich collection of Buddhist paintings and sculpture. Begun in the second century B.C.E. Ajanta was abandoned about 480. It was rediscovered by the British in 1819.



A closer view of the Ajanta Caves



A part of one of the many murals from Ajanta



Not far from Ajanta are the Ellora caves with this temple caved out of solid rock.



Great Jain Temple on Mt. Abu

Mt. Abu, located in southern Rajasthan, is an important pilgrimage site for Jains. The temples here, filled with exquisite carvings, were constructed between the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 13<sup>th</sup> centuries.





A Detail from Jain Temple on Mt. Abu.

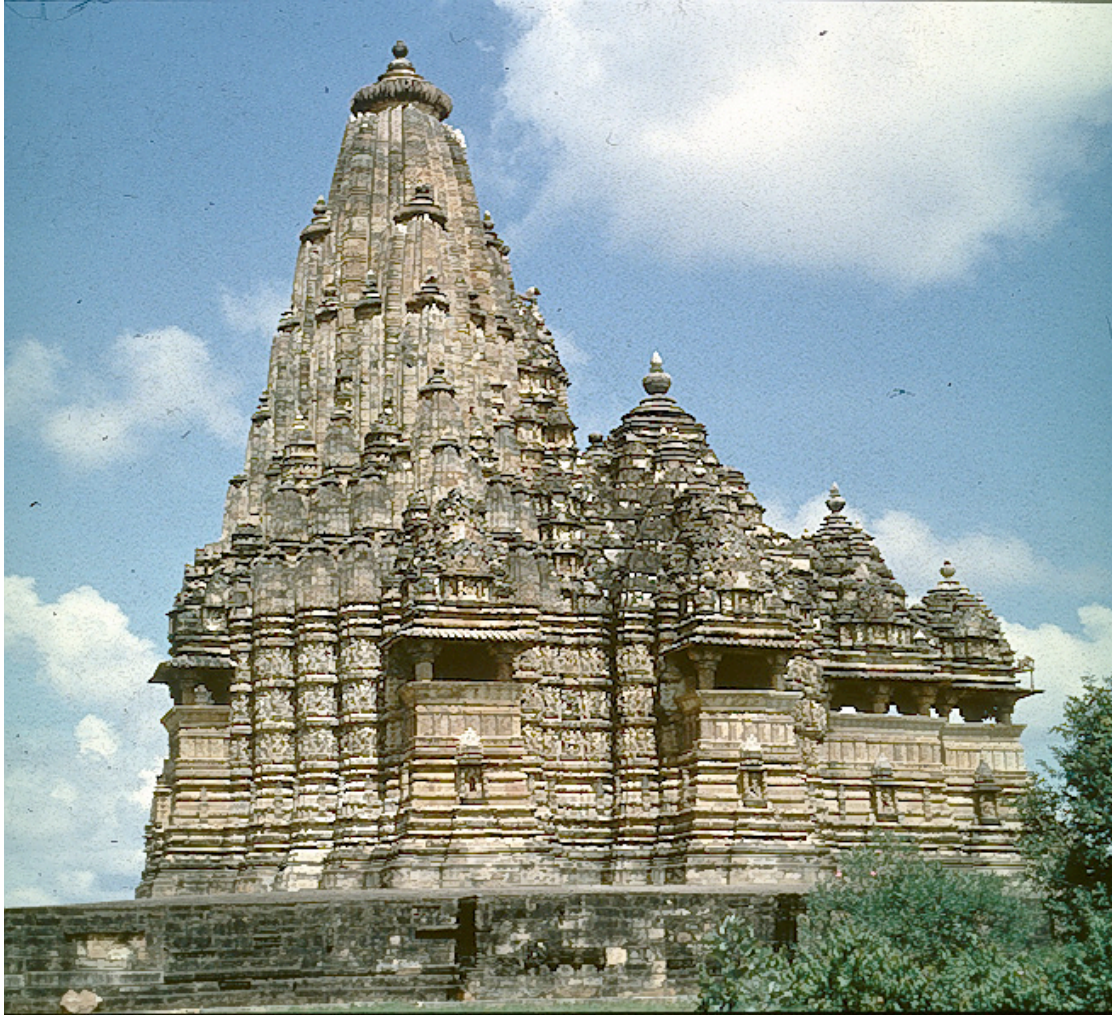


Shiva Temple at Kanchipuram

Usually in a Hindu town, if there is a Vishnu temple in the center of town, there is a Siva temple on the fringe or vice versa. This is a rather unusual Siva temple located at the edge of Kanchipuram. As is the case with most medieval temples in India, this is constructed without mortar.



Great temple of Thanjanur (Tanjore)  
Built by the Cholas sometime between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Centuries.



One of the important temples of Khajuraho

These temples are well-known for their erotic imagery. The twenty-five temples that remain after Muslim destruction and environmental neglect were built from the tenth to the twelfth centuries during the reign of the Chandelas.



Women bathing in the Ganges at Varanasi

Varanasi (Benares) is undoubtedly the holiest city of India, attracting Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain pilgrims in great numbers. Many people come to Varanasi to die so that they may be cremated on the ghats by the river and then become one with the river that is sacred to Siva. The city has functioned in this capacity for thousands of years.

# Nepal



A scene from Katmandu, Nepal



A great Buddhist Stupa near Katmandu



Sacrificing to the Goddess Kali at her temple south of Katmandu

While I watched, chickens and lambs were sacrificed in a very bloody fashion to the great goddess Kali. Many Hindus, including Gandhi, were and are opposed to animal sacrifice.





Shiva Temple in Katmandu

## Myanmar



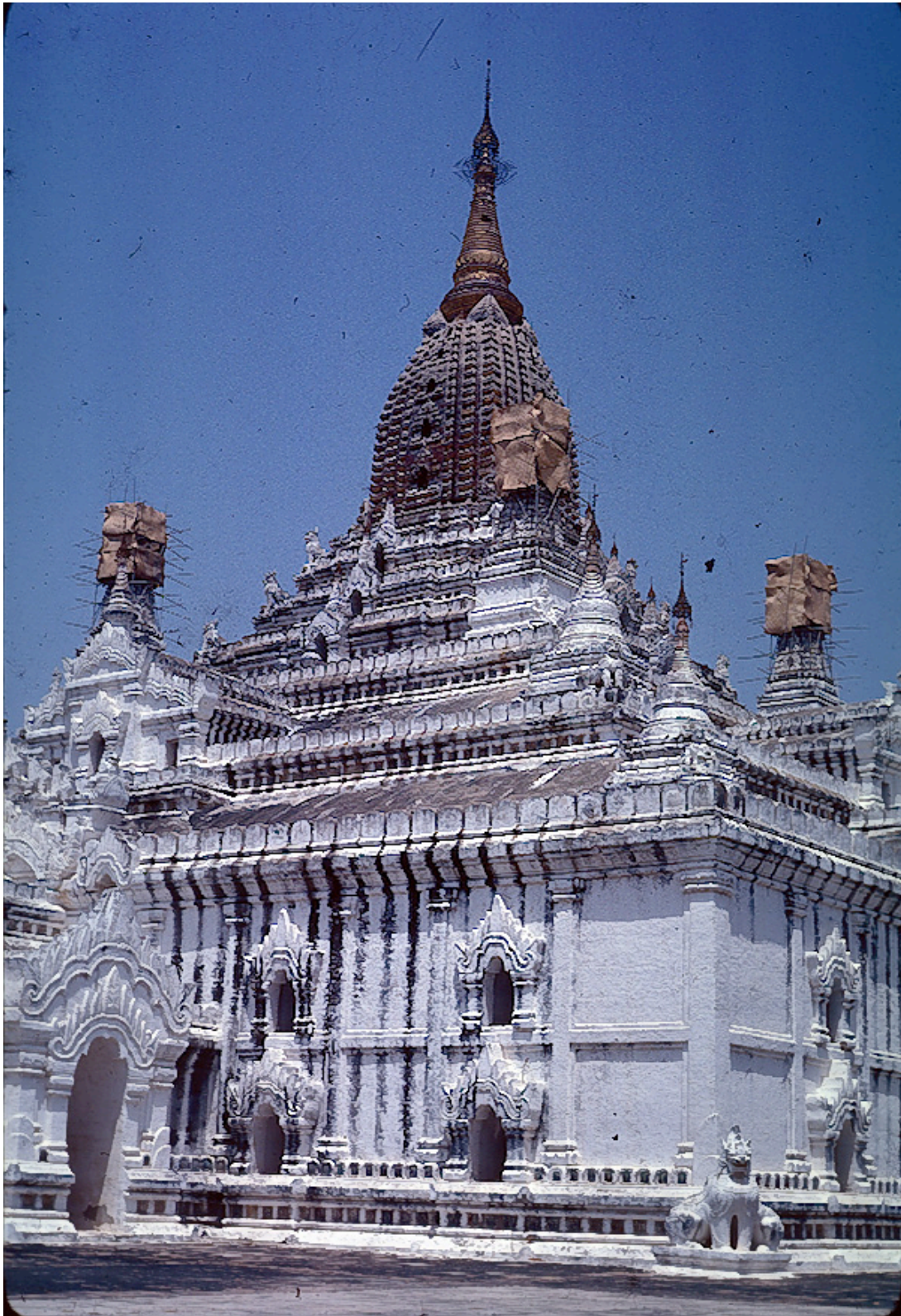
Shwedagon Pagoda of Rangoon

This is the path for circumambulation of the stupa. When the stupa was built is unclear, but it is ancient.



Golden Stupa at Pagan, Myanmar

Pagan, many miles north of Rangoon, is the great center for stupas. Some are small; some are immense. Pagan became a center for the country in the 10th century, but most of the edifices were not built until the 12<sup>th</sup> century.



Another magnificent stupa from Pagan

## Sri Lanka



The great stupa in Anuradhapurna, Sri Lanka  
Someone calculated that with the bricks in this stupa one could construct a wall all the way from London to Edinburgh. Anuradhapura was a governmental center from 200 B.C.E. until 1000 C.E. It is full of extraordinary treasures.



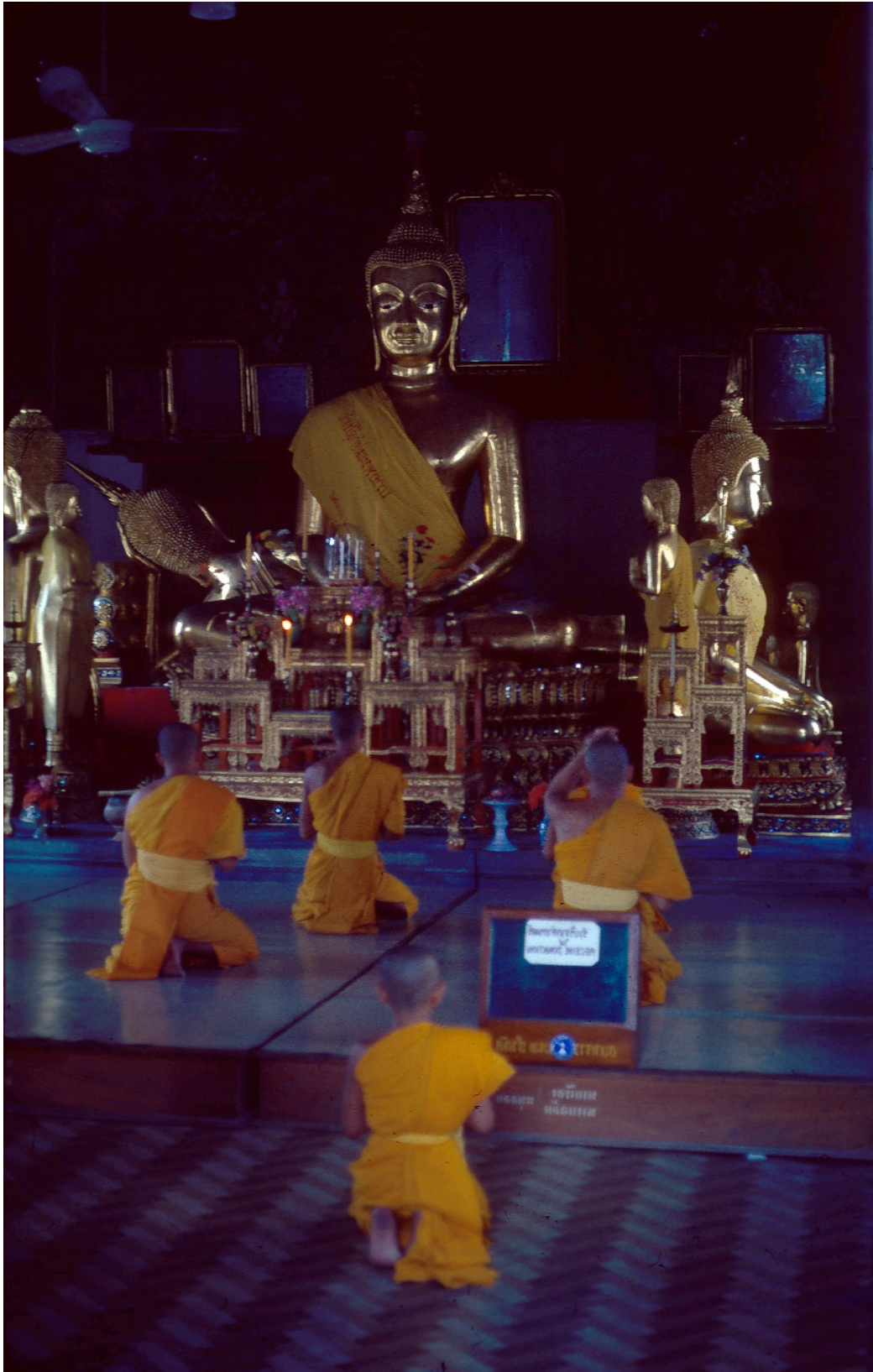
Great Buddha Polonnaruwa, Sri Lanka

Polonnaruwa was made a capitol city in the 11<sup>th</sup> century and is today blessed with many Buddhist remains.

## Thailand



A scene from Bangkok, Thailand



Monks meditating in Bangkok





Temple of the Dawn, Bangkok

## Korea

Korea shows in its architecture and culture the clear influence of China, but there is always something uniquely Korean in evidence too.



Changdok Palace, Seoul

This palace was built between 1405 and 1412. Although destroyed and rebuilt many times, it served as the home for thirteen of Korea's kings who lived in it for a total of 270 years.

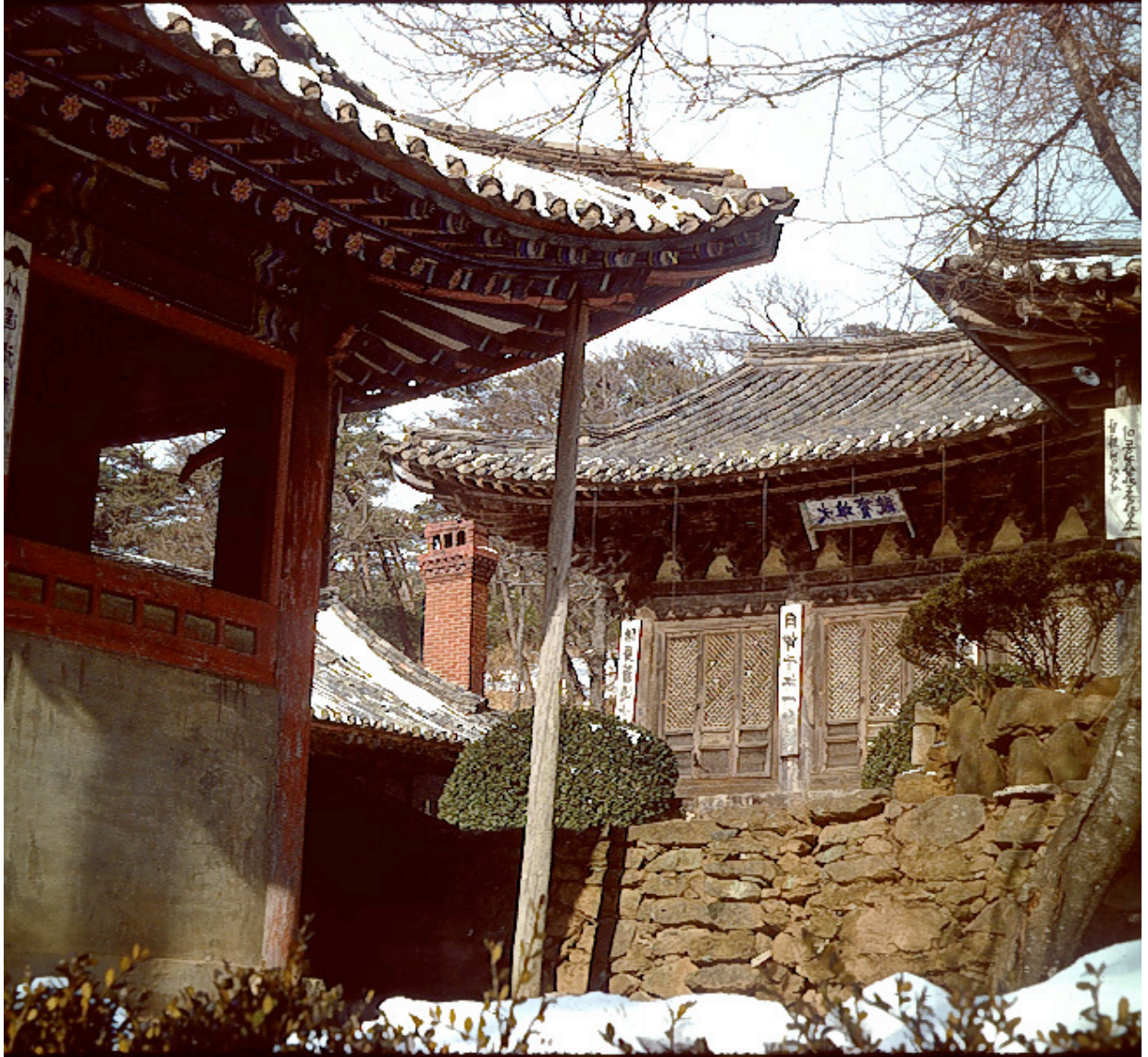


Kyeonghoe-ru Pavilion with skaters, Seoul

This is a part of the Gyeongbok Palace complex. Like many other royal buildings, this was destroyed by the Japanese and then later rebuilt.



The Watergate, Suwon, Korea  
My two daughters were born in Suwon.



Son Monastery on Kangwa Island, west of Seoul

Son is the Korean version of Chinese Chan and Japanese Zen. When I visited the monastery many years ago, there was only one monk still residing there.



### Bulguksa Temple in Kyonju

This temple was first built in 528 in the 15<sup>th</sup> year of King Pop-hung of the Shilla Dynasty



Seokgulam Grotto near Kyonju

This grotto features an exquisite statue of the Buddha in the center of a rotunda.



A Stone Pagoda at Bulguksa, Korea.



## Taiwan



Daoist Red Hat Priest conducting an exorcism in a "Hell Temple," Tainan, Taiwan.

Every April worshippers from all over the island of Taiwan come together to celebrate the goddess Matsu's birthday with a parade of followers arriving to have their Matsu statues blessed. In front of the great temple they offer dances, music, and other forms of entertainment for the goddess. Mediums come, work themselves into a trance, and sometimes beat themselves. Priests are there to make sure that they do not go too far in their self-punishment. The festival lasts several days.



Matsu Temple, Beigang, Taiwan  
This was taken during a lull in the parade of worshippers.



Here comes a statue of Matsu ushered in by musicians.



Many groups come to offer concerts for Matsu. Sometimes short plays are performed for her.



Like most Chinese temples, Matsu's has a furnace so that people can burn "hell" money that the smoke carries away to the ancestors who may need support.



The Matsu Temple interior



Inside the Matsu Temple in Beigang, Taiwan



A Taoist medium with snap out blouse show signs of self-beating while in a trance.





A Daoist Red Hat priest at the festival



### Daoist Dream Temple.

I stayed at this temple and, strange to say, had a dream. An old Daoist sage came to me in that dream and said, "Life is full of irresolvable paradoxes but the great of these paradoxes is that there are no paradoxes. He smiled at me and then disappeared.

## Japan

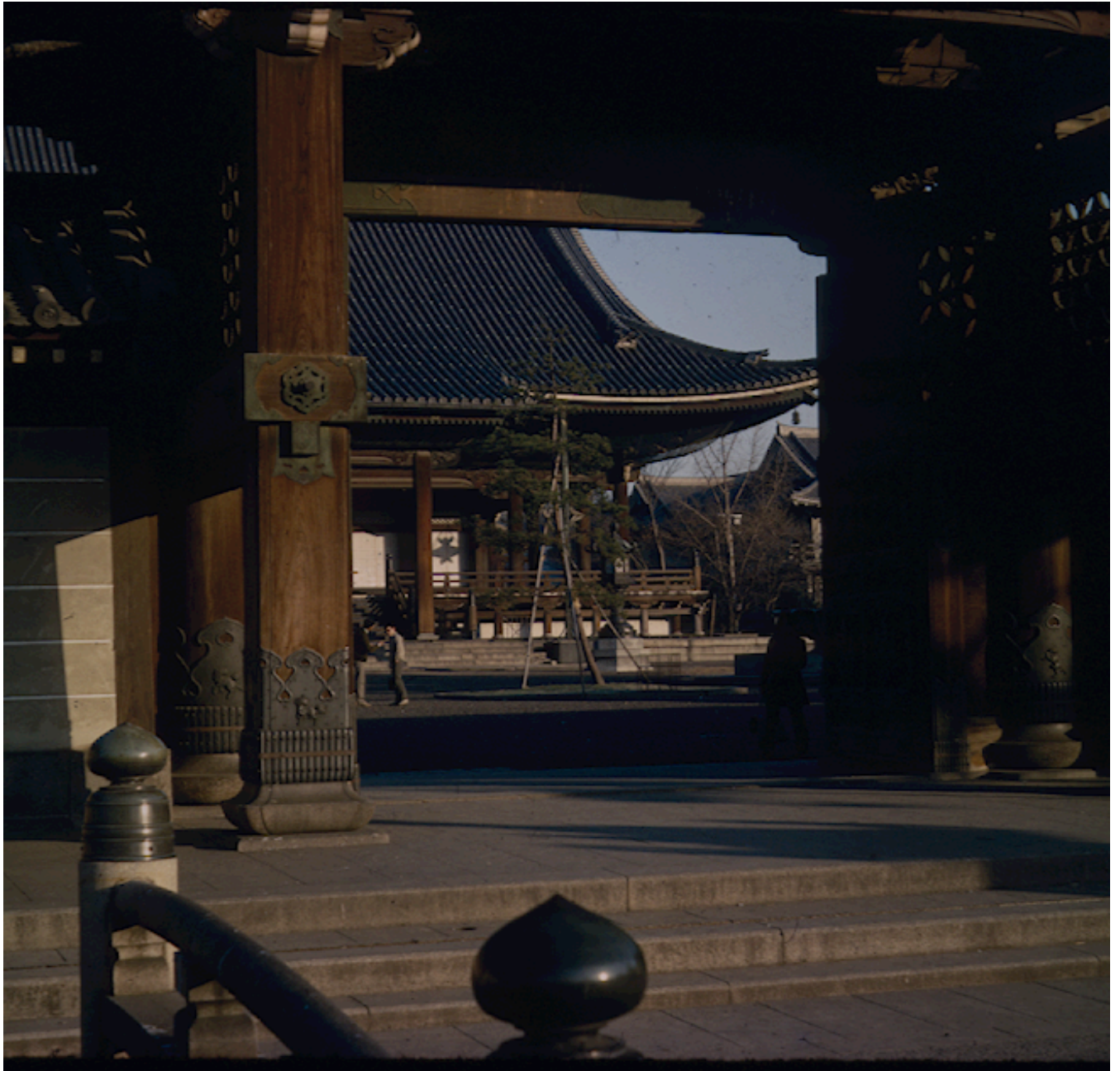


The Burial Place of Shinran

Shinran lived in the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries and was the founder of Jodo Shinshu.



Daitokugi Temple Garden, Kyoto, Japan



Nishi Hingji Temple, Kyoto, Japan



Gardens at Nanzenji Monastery



New Year's Day at the Fushimi Inari Shinto Shrine near Kyoto

## China

Finally, I took two trips to China. The first was quite extended. For eight weeks I was on my own in China, traveling without reservations and with only a very rough sketch of where I wanted to go. Needless to say I did not see everything, for China is a huge country, but, among many other things, I was able to climb Tai Shan, visit the fabulous Magao caves at Dunhuang, tour the holy sites of Wu Tai Shan, explore Shanghai and Beijing, and get a genuine feel for the country that I had taught about for so long. The second trip was much shorter, for I went with Hamilton students during spring break, but I was still able to go by myself to visit some places in the west that I had not seen before.



West Lake, Hangzhou





Garden in Suzhou

Suzhou is known for its wonderful medieval gardens that are still maintained beautifully.



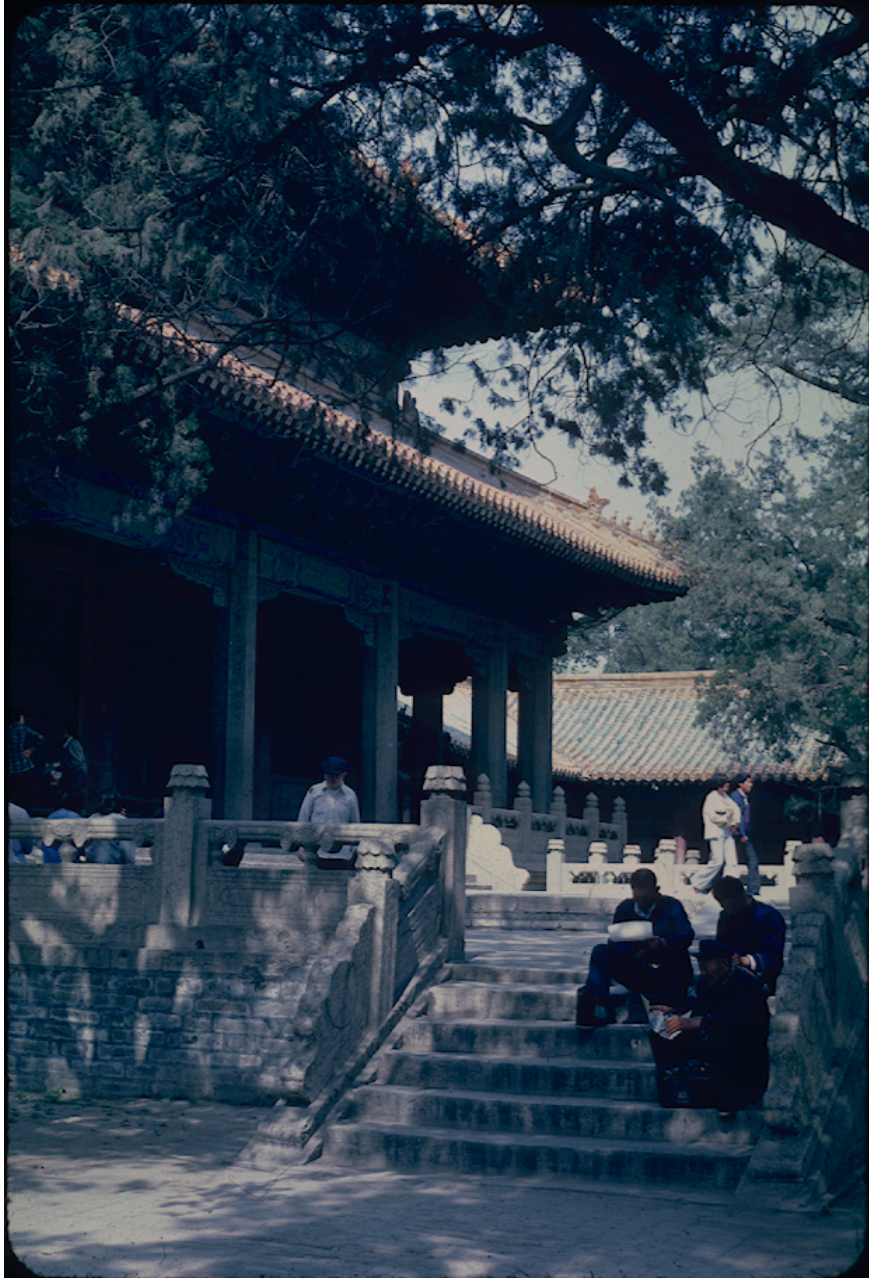
Suzhou gardens



Another garden in Suzhou



Bei Si Pagoda in Su Zhou



Qu Fu, where the family of Confucius lived



Archway in Confucius family home.

One can, as I did, actually stay in the extensive home where the Confucian family lived in Qu Fu.



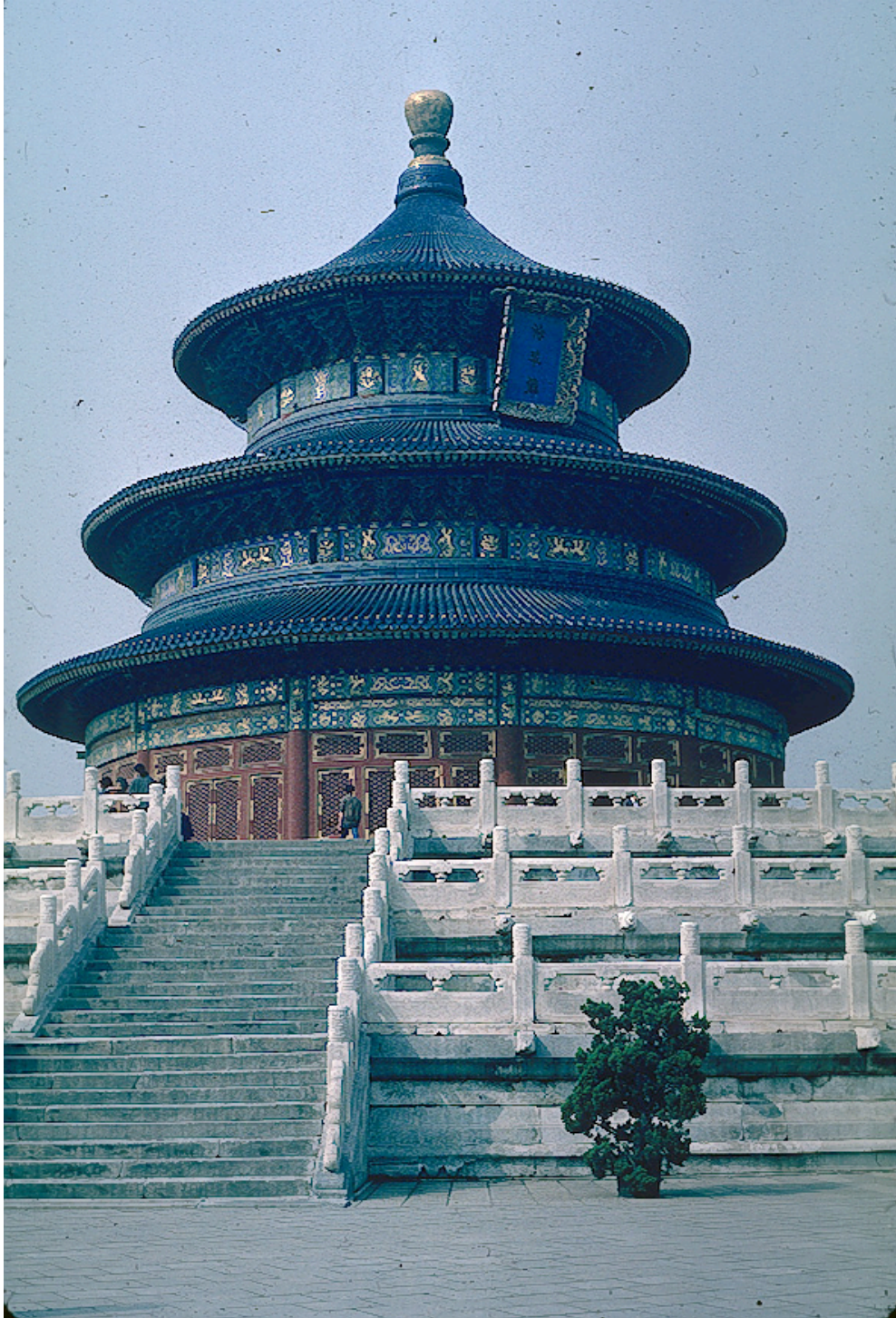
The last few steps leading to the top of Tai Shan in China.

Tai Shan is one of the oldest pilgrimage sites in the world. It is said that Confucius climbed to the top. So did Chairman Mao. Today one can ascend by cable car, but to get the full effect of the great mountain, it is better to hike up the steep steps.

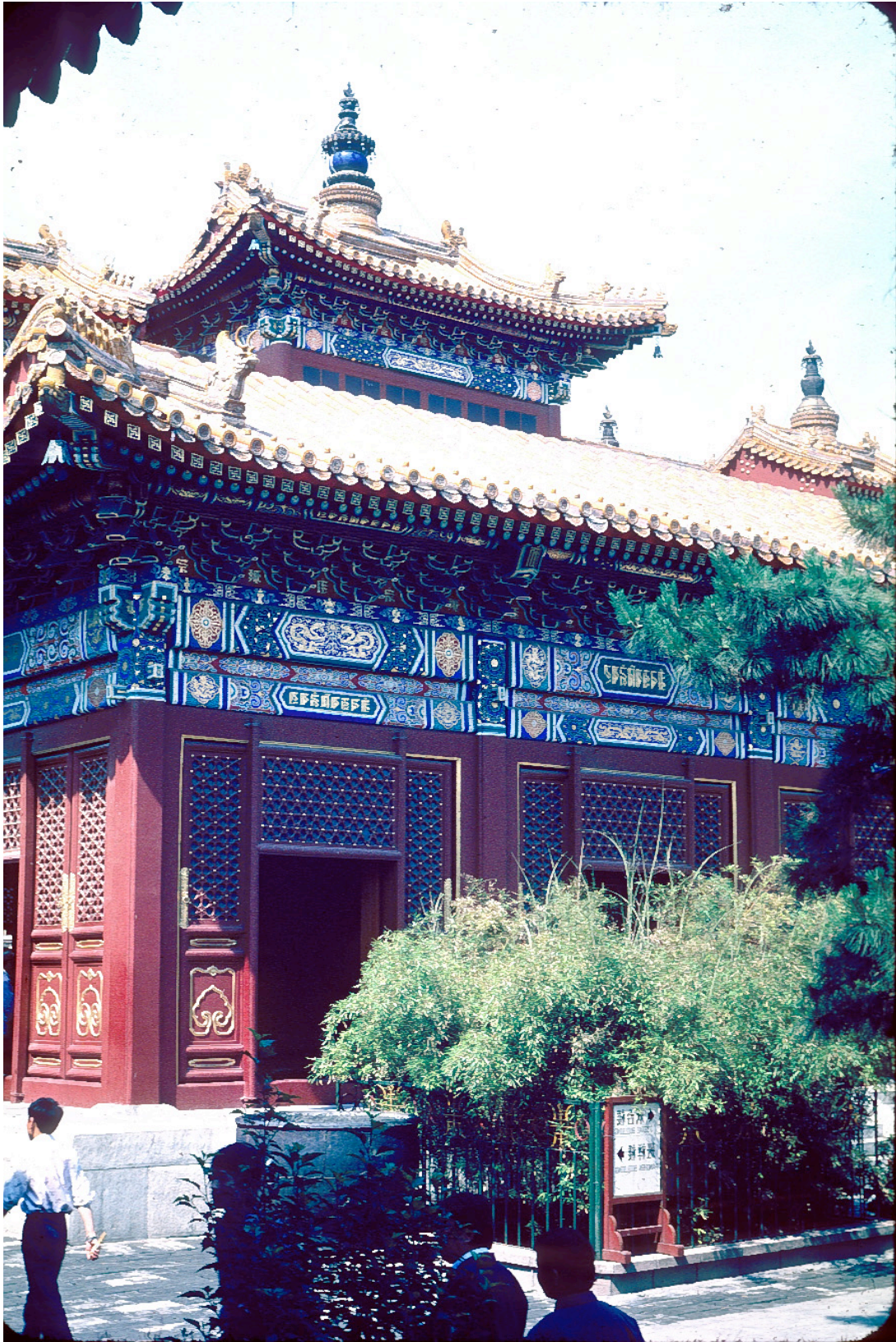


Ying Kan Si pagodas and stupas





Part of the Temple of Heaven complex, Beijing



The Lama Temple, Beijing



From the Lama Temple in Beijing



A Monumental Buddha in Datong



A hanging monastery near Datong



The Great Wooden Pagoda, near Datong



View of Wu Tai Shan

Wu Tai Shan, nestled amid some beautiful mountains, is one of the great centers for Buddhism in China. Many of the monks there today are Tibetan.



Yungmen Caves, near Luoyang

This statue is about 57 feet tall.





Entrance to Shao Lin

Shao Lin is said to be the place where Bodhidharma, the founder of Chan (Zen) Buddhism, settled after arriving in China from India.



A forest of stupas near Shao Lin



The Great Goose Pagoda in Xian.

It was in this building that many of the great Buddhist texts from India were translated into Chinese.



A Head of a warrior statue from the vast tomb outside Xian.



A Christian pagoda located about fifty miles southwest of Xian. The orientation is east not south and the interior decorations are Biblical. It was probably build by members of the Church of the East that sent missionaries to China as early as the 7<sup>th</sup> century. So Christian missionaries reached China before they were successful in many parts of Europe.



An entrance to the Mogao Caves near Dunhuang.

There are some 400 decorated caves here. These caves were discovered in the Gansu desert about 1900 after being covered over by drifting sand for centuries. Also discovered was a huge cache of manuscripts hidden behind a false wall in one of the caves.



Inside one of the Magao Caves.

Many of the caves have figures like this. Because of the nature of the stone in the area, the statues are made out of clay.



There are many murals painted on the walls. Some are in Chinese style but others reflect the arts of Central Asia. Many murals depict everyday life rather than religious scenes.

Beside all this there have been shorter visits to read papers in Finland, Scotland, the Czech Republic and Spain as well as an eight-week seminar on Nagarjuna in Hawaii.

Much of this travel was sponsored by the generosity of Hamilton College. It was an expense, but I also believe that it radically transformed my ability to teach about religion. Religion is not just holy books and credos but is the smell of incense, and the views from mountain tops. It is the warding off of evil spirits by shamanic rituals and the burning of paper money in a temple's furnace. You



can read about such things, but actually seeing a religion in action is irreplaceable.

There are parts of the world I have not seen: Africa, most of South America, and much of the Arab world. Perhaps I will take another trip somewhere, but I think I have seen enough to greatly benefit my teaching. Today my itchy feet are less itchy and I am more interested in reading more deeply about what is still vividly impressed upon my memory.